

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING AND PUBLIC COMMENT

The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) seek written and oral comments from interested persons on the development of Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) to address multiple impairments in the Middle River watershed. The subject stream segments are identified in Virginia's 1998 303(d) TMDL Priority List and Report as impaired due to violations of the State's water quality standards for bacteria, the General Standard (benthics), or both. The bacteria impairments include 15.7 miles on Upper Middle River, 12.1 miles on Lewis Creek, 7.3 miles on Polecat Draft, 18.1 miles on Lower Middle River, 12.6 miles on South River, and 8.73 miles on Moffett Creek. The benthic impairments include 15.7 miles on Upper Middle River, 12.1 miles on Lewis Creek, and 8.73 miles on Moffett Creek.

Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act and §62.1-44.19:7.C of the Code of Virginia require DEQ to develop TMDLs for pollutants responsible for each impaired water contained in Virginia's 303(d) TMDL Priority List and Report.

The first public meeting on the development of TMDLs to address the impairments in the subject stream segments will be held on **Tuesday, March 4, 2003, 7:00 p.m.** at the Augusta County Government Center's Board Room located at 18 Government Center Lane in Verona, Virginia. Directions and a map to the location are available at http://www.mme.state.va.us/Dmm/Training_Schedule/veronadir.pdf.

The public comment period for this phase of the TMDL will end on April 3, 2003. A fact sheet on the development of the TMDLs for the benthic impairments is available upon request. Questions or information requests should be addressed to Sandra Mueller. Written comments should include the name, address, and telephone number of the person submitting the comments and should be sent to Sandra T. Mueller, Department of Environmental Quality, 629 East Main Street, Richmond, Virginia, 23240, telephone (804) 698-4324, Fax (804) 698-4116, or e-mail stmueller@deq.state.va.us.